

FORGE SEAT

MR. AND MRS. JAMES E. CASON (BUZZ)

1502 WILSON PIKE
BRENTWOOD, TN 37027

MAILING
2804 AZALEA PLACE
NASHVILLE, TN 37024

HOME (615) 370-3808
WORK (615) 383-8682



FORGE SEAT

Forge Seat is located at the corner of Crockett Road and Wilson Pike. It was built in 1808, by Samuel Crockett and his son Andrew. The original white ash floors of this seven room home, put down with wooden pegs, are still in good condition. The Crockett father and son operated a forge and it is said that David Crockett, on his ill fated trip to Texas and the Alamo, stopped here to equip himself with arms. It is possible that the Crocketts also ran the powder mill, which was located on the Little Harpeth River, near where Lipscomb School now stands. Later people by the name of Owen lived in the home and in a family quarrel, Jarvis stabbed his brother, Big Dick, to death in an upstairs room. The blood stains on the floor are still visible. Understandably, servants for a long time were a little reluctant about cleaning that room! For many years this home was owned by William L. and Fannie Horton Carpenter, who came here in 1875 from Marshall County. They ran a small store on the Crockett Rd. side of the yard and the "Carpenter" post office was located here. Mr. Carpenter was an enthusiastic reader and, business not being as rushing then as now, spent a good bit of time between customers sitting in the same spot on the porch, his chair tilted against the wall, until the chair legs wore a hole in the floor and he had to move to another location on the porch. I still remember the emphasis with which he pronounced a certain magazine article "preposterous!" Two of their children remained in the community; Margaret Brown, who married Tom Davis, Jr. and Maude, who married Adelbert May. Mr. and Mrs. May had three children: Mrs. Mildred Parker, who now lives in Cookeville; William A., who married Zelma Watson, lives in Nashville and has worked many years at Buford Brothers; and Maude, who died in childhood. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gregory bought Forge Seat in 1937 and reside there now.

REFERENCES:

Rosalie C. Batson

FORGE SEAT

Forge Seat was built in 1808 by Samuel Crockett on a 640 acre Revolutionary War land grant to his father, Andrew Crockett. It is built of brick laid in Flemish bond. The interior resembles Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Built before the central hall came into vogue, each room has a staircase that goes to the room above. The floors are random width white ash. The Crocketts operated an iron forge on this site. Andrew Jackson stopped at Forge Seat on his way to New Orleans during the War of 1812 to purchase arms for his men. A few of the Crockett rifles are still in existence and may be identified by S&AC engraved on the barrel. Forge Seat passed from the Crockett family to the Jabez Owen family, who established their cemetery next to Crockett Cemetery, both of which are across the road from the house. The house was later owned by the Carpenter family who ran a store, which can still be seen in the yard.

Brentwood Brochure

TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM

Title: Historic Resources of Williamson County

Historic Name: Crockett, Samuel, House (WM-82)

Common Name: Forge Seat

Classification: Building

Owner: James E. Cason, 1502 Wilson Pike, Brentwood, TN.

Location: At the junction of Crockett Road and Wilson Pike.

Contributing:

Buildings	5
Structures	0
Sites	0

Non-Contributing:

Buildings	1
Structures	1
Sites	0

Total: 5

Total: 2

Description:

The Samuel Crockett House is a two-story brick hall-parlor residence constructed ca. 1808. A two-story brick addition was added on the east facade ca. 1830 and two-story wing was added to the west facade ca. 1840. On the main (north) facade of the original section is an original six panel door with an added ca. 1960 surround. This surround displays three light sidelights with frame lower panels, an eleven light transom, pediment and fluted Doric pilasters. Windows on the first story are original nine-over-nine sash with projecting wood sills and rounded arch window heads. Over the windows are two courses of brick relief arching. On the second story are original six-over-six sash windows with two-course brick relief arching.

The house is of six to nine course common bond construction. The original section has exterior end brick chimneys. The added west wing is of six-course common bond construction and also has nine-over-nine sash windows and brick relief arching. A doorway opening on the main facade of this wing has been bricked in. All windows in the house have 19th century shutters. The house rests on a dressed limestone foundation with cellar windows with frame lintels. On the rear or south facade of the building is single course jack arching over the windows. The basement door on the south facade is of ca. 1890 glass and frame design. The rear entrance on the main facade has double doors of frame and glass with a five light transom.

At the rear of the house is a ca. 1830 brick kitchen which is now connected to the main section with a ca. 1960 brick addition. The kitchen is of five course common bond with added twelve-over-twelve sash windows. The interior of the house appears to have originally been a hall-parlor design but was changed at an early date when the wings were added. The interior retains original simple Federal influenced mantles, a staircase with a simple newel post and square balusters, wainscoting and four and six panel doors.

The Crockett House has a number of contributing outbuildings on its property. These include: a ca. 1900 frame barn with vertical board siding; a ca. 1900

frame well house of hexagonal design with a conical roof; and a ca. 1900 frame smokehouse. These outbuildings are good examples of their type and contribute to the property's setting. Also at the rear of the house is the original ca. 1810 log blacksmith shop which retains its stone fireplace. This log building has half-dovetail notching and has been enclosed with weatherboard siding and additions. To the north of the house on the property is a one-story frame ca. 1900 commercial building. This building originally stood at the corner of Crockett Road and Wilson Pike and was moved back from the road in recent years approximately thirty yards. Because it has been moved it is included as a non-contributing building. Also on the property is a non-contributing swimming pool.

Period of Significance: ca. 1808; ca. 1810 - 1827; ca. 1830; ca. 1840; ca. 1900

Area of Significance: Architecture

Criterion: A and C

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Statement of Significance:

The Samuel Crockett House is a notable example of a hall-parlor brick residence of the early 19th century. The property is also notable through its association with an important 19th century industry of the area. The house was enlarged several times in the early 1800s but has since not been significantly altered. The site of the Crockett's forge remains intact and it is one of the few early industrial sites extant in the county.

The Samuel Crockett House was built ca. 1808 by Samuel Crockett III whose parents were Andrew and Sally Elliot Crockett who settled in a log house nearby in 1798. Samuel Crockett was born in 1772 and moved with his parents to Williamson County. Around 1808, Crockett constructed the original two-story hall and parlor plan brick residence. In addition to owning lands from his father's estate Crockett also became well known for his blacksmith and gunsmith shop. By 1810, Crockett operated a forge in a log building at the rear of his residence. In addition to common place iron utensils Crockett and his cousin, Andrew Crockett, produced muskets which were highly prized for their craftsmanship and well known throughout Middle Tennessee. During the War of 1812, Andrew Jackson visited the Crockett home and purchased a number of guns for his troops. In addition to this forge, the Crocketts also operated a forge in Franklin near the downtown square. This building no longer stands.

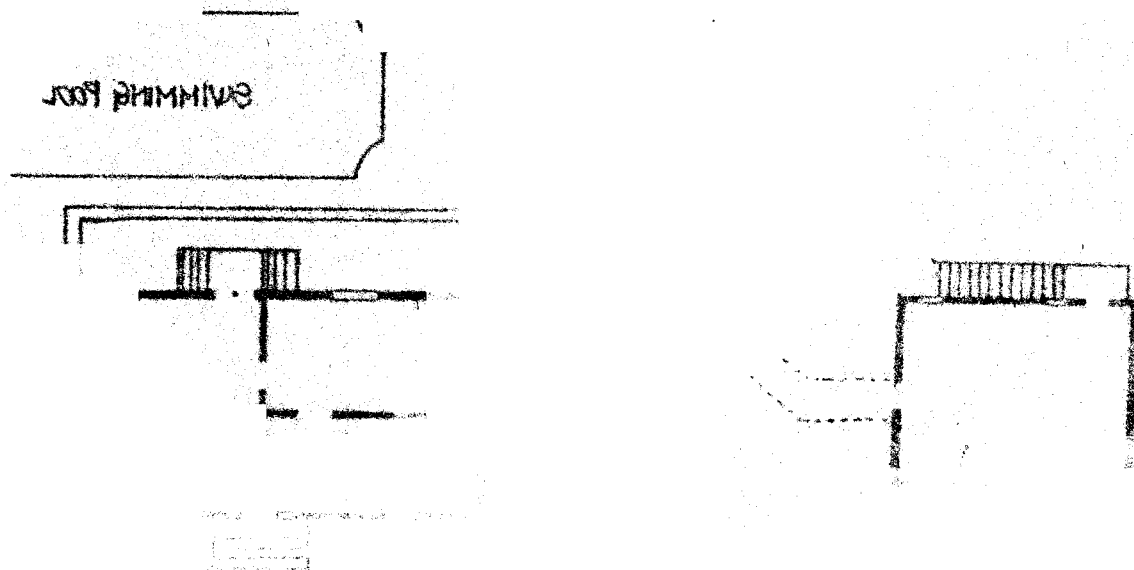
Crockett was listed in 1820 as owning 10 slaves and a large farm. It is not known how long the forge remained in operation but it appears that it was discontinued following Samuel Crockett's death in 1827. The log building and stone foundation of the forge remains extant at the rear of the house. The house remained in the Crockett family during the 19th century and a two-story and one-story wing were added by 1840. Since the late 19th century few changes have occurred to the residence and it retains its original site and setting.

Acreage: 18.5 acres

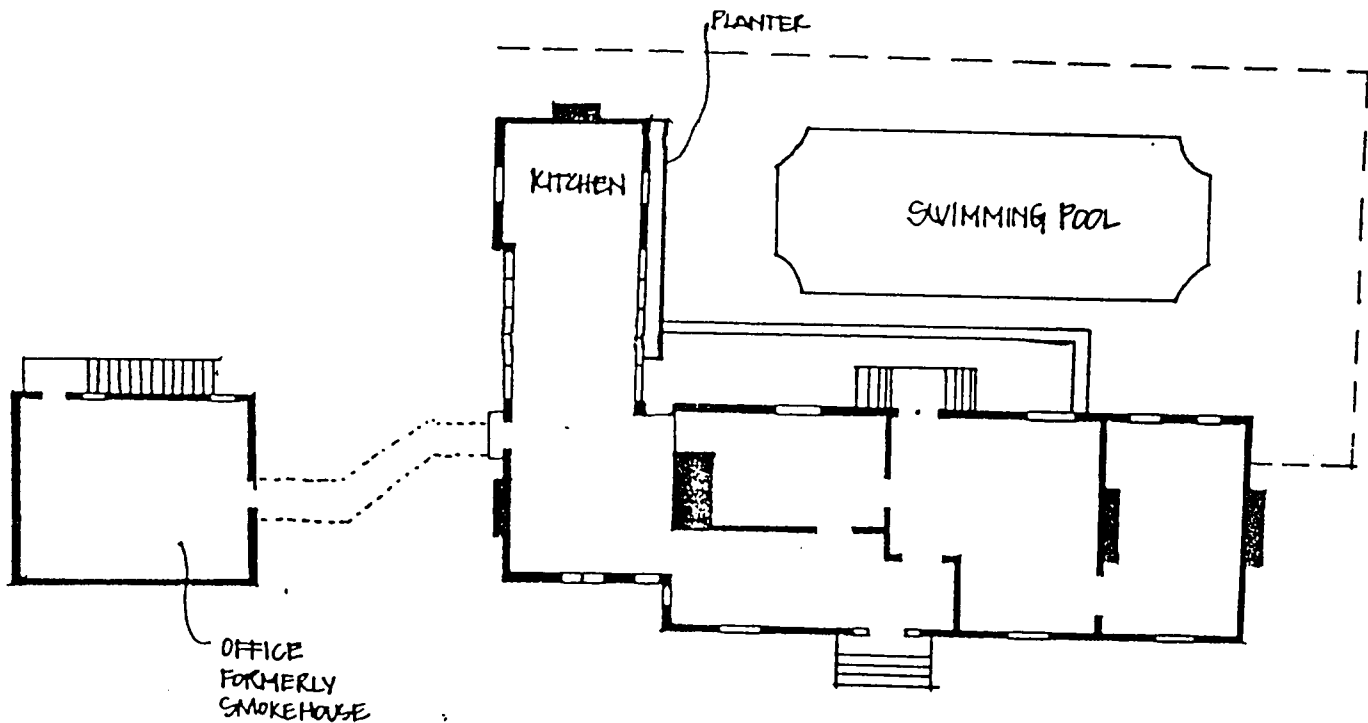
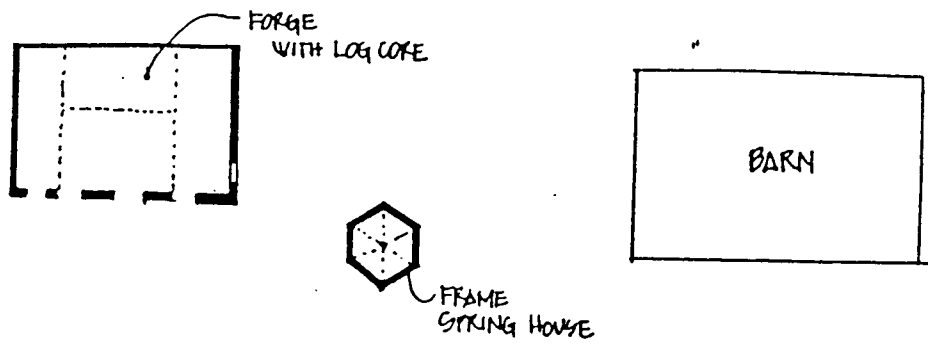
UTM References: Franklin Quad/A. 16/520140/3981220 B. 16/520300/3981250 C. 16/520280/3980770 D. 16/520440/3980760

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification: The boundary for the Samuel Crockett House is illustrated on accompanying Williamson County tax map # 35, lot 4. The boundary is drawn to include the legal boundary of the property which encompasses the main residence and adjacent outbuildings and fields. The boundary includes sufficient property to protect the historical setting of the site.

Supplemental Bibliographical References: Historic Williamson County, Bowman.



#82 SAMUEL CROCKETT
HOUSE



* NOT TO SCALE

COMMERCIAL
BUILDING





--- STATE LINE
 --- CO. LINE
 --- CO. CORNERS
 --- TOWNSHIP LINE
 --- ROAD
 --- RAILROAD
 --- GRADE LINE

00	00	00
00	00	00
00	00	00

- REVISIONS -		
1/1/70	14.01	1
2/3/01	17	2
1/9/83	20	3
10/3/79	19	4
11/9/04	20	5

WILLIAMSON CO TENN	
MIDDLE GRAND DIVISION	
SCALE 1"=800'	DISTRICT
DATE OF FIELD MAP, 1900	
DATE COMPILED MAP, 1900	

the debris was being pushed into the large cellars after the house was torn down, children watching the work said the cellar steps were also gravestones with inscriptions on them.

After the parents' deaths the property was divided among their three children—Joshua Clark, Benjamin Franklin, and Isabelle Owen Hill who got the homeplace.

In September of 1965 The Mansion, as countless of its contemporaries in Williamson County have done, passed into oblivion to the regret of those who remembered it in happier days.

The Buck Davis Place

The Hightower name was one of distinction among this county's early families judging by old records and tombstone data found in the Courthouse, the Old City Cemetery, and in a private graveyard near Brentwood.

Richard Hightower (1761-1820) was the son of Oldham Hightower whose parents were Austin and Jane Oldham Hightower. The family was well established by 1800 and was further strengthened by marriages with the most prominent connections Williamson and Davidson Counties could afford . . . namely Hayes, Sims, Hadley and Owen.

In 1791, Richard Hightower married Nancy Smith (1770-1849), the daughter of Robert and Sarah Clemmons Smith. One of Richard and Nancy's daughters, Sally, married Oliver Bliss Hayes, eminent lawyer and Presbyterian minister, and among their children was Adelia Hayes who became the mistress of beautiful Belmont in Nashville as Mrs. Joseph Acklen.

The Davis house was originally the Hightower home-stand. The back part was built first and consisted of two large rooms, one above the other. The lower room with its huge fireplace served as a kitchen with the sleeping quarters reached by a narrow stairway above. This old portion remained the kitchen when the more pretentious front was added.

William A. Davis, or Buck, as he was more generally known, moved here with his wife, the former Judith Robertson Owen, after he sold their home, Mountview, to Ashley Rozelle in 1865. Her parents, Everitt and Anna Gray Owen, lived at the old John Gray place not far off which still stands today.

Buck Davis sold out to his brother Thomas W. Davis, Sr. around 1872. Thomas Davis, Jr. was born in this house in 1876, lived here all his life, and died in the same bed in the same room where he first saw the light of day. His three children—William, Thomas III, and Helen—were all born here.

After Mr. Davis died in 1953, the house was occupied by various families and was finally left vacant. It became an object of abuse for vandals and pranksters and burned March 21, 1964, to the regret of those who could remember it in happier days.

The site is now being developed into a sub-division. In a cornfield the Hightower cemetery, one of the oldest burial sites in the county, is a jumble of broken tombstones pushed aside by the plow over a long number of years. Inscriptions are still legible on some of the massive vaults; others have faded beyond recall. Here members of the



The Davis house as it once stood on Wilson Pike

Hightower, Sims, Hayes, Wilson, Smith, Criddle, and Ballow families are buried. According to county records the first person buried there was a Mrs. Alexander who died in 1800 while living on the Hightower premises.

Forge Seat

The Crockett family in Williamson County had its beginning in America with a young man named Samuel Crockett who had come to the New World in 1715 when he was about twenty-one years old. Tradition says he was on board ship with a Rev. John Thompson and his family among whose members was a small daughter Esther. Charmed by her sweet baby ways, the young traveler whiled away many tedious hours during the long voyage watching her at play. Samuel Crockett told her father he would wait for her to grow up then he would marry her, to which suggestion Rev. Thompson laughingly agreed.

Despite the difference in their ages, when Esther was grown Samuel was as good as his word and, to her father's dismay, claimed her for his wife. To them were born eight children, some of whom came to this county from Wythe County, Virginia, or were represented here by sons and daughters as early as 1799. Samuel Crockett died "an old man" around 1750 and his wife, while in her early forties, married their neighbor William Sayers who was as much her junior as she had been her first husband's.

Among the children of Samuel and Esther Crockett was a son Andrew (1747-1821), a Revolutionary soldier who received a 640 acre grant in 1787 for his services in the North Carolina Militia. With his family he was in the Brentwood area in a tight log house by 1799. He and his wife Sallie Elliott (1750-1821) died a month to the day apart and are buried in one of the two rockwalled cemeteries just north of Forge Seat. The other cemetery contains members of the family of Jabez and Sarah Hall Owen.

Forge Seat is one of this county's most historic landmarks. Built of brick laid in Flemish bond, it stands in a wide shady lawn at the corner of Wilson Pike and Crockett Road. The interior, which bears a remarkable resemblance to Independence Hall in Philadelphia, is quite